

DESCRIPTIONMATERIALS AND METHODS FOR TREATING  
OR PREVENTING OXALATE-RELATED DISEASE

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Cross-Reference to a Related Application

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This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No.10/093,686, filed March 8, 2002; which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/500,500; filed February 9, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,355,242, issued March 12, 2002; which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/083,362, filed May 22, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,200,562, issued March 13, 2001; which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/047,473, filed May 23, 1997 and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/150,259, filed August 23, 1999; which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety, including all figures, tables, and drawings.

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Background of the Invention

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Kidney-urinary tract stone disease (urolithiasis) is a major health problem throughout the world. Most of the stones associated with urolithiasis are composed of calcium oxalate alone or calcium oxalate plus calcium phosphate. Other disease states have also been associated with excess oxalate. These include, vulvodynia, oxalosis associated with end-stage renal disease, cardiac conductance disorders, Crohn's disease, and other enteric disease states.

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Oxalic acid (and/or its salt-oxalate) is found in a wide diversity of foods, and is therefore, a component of many constituents in human and animal diets. Increased oxalate absorption may occur after foods containing elevated amounts of oxalic acid are eaten. Foods such as spinach and rhubarb are well known to contain high amounts of oxalate, but a multitude of other foods and beverages also contain oxalate. Because oxalate is found in such a wide variety of foods, diets that are low in oxalate and which are also palatable are hard to formulate. In addition, compliance with a low oxalate diet is often problematic.

meals/day, therefore on an average a daily dose of  $10^8$  to  $10^{10}$  viable cells would be sufficient to prevent the dietary absorption of oxalate.

5 It should be understood that the examples and embodiments described herein are for illustrative purposes only and that various modifications or changes in light thereof will be suggested to persons skilled in the art and are to be included within the spirit and purview of this application and the scope of the appended claims.

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